

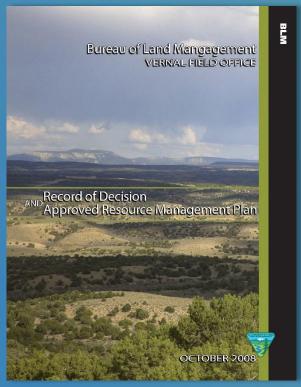
# STATE OF UTAH SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION

# BLM Travel Management Update

 2008 – BLM issued six Resource Management Plans (RMP's) and associated Travel Management Plans

(TMP's)

- Kanab
- Moab
- Monticello
- Price
- Richfield
- Vernal



- 2008/2010 Lawsuits filed against BLM by 10 conservation groups to challenge the RMPs & TMPs
  - SUWA
  - Natural Resource Defense Council
  - Wilderness Society
  - National Parks Conservation Association
  - Grand Canyon Trust
  - Sierra Club
  - National Trust for Historic Preservation
  - Utah Rivers Council
  - Great Old Broads for Wilderness
  - Rocky Mountain Wild

#### Lawsuit Allegations – BLM did not:

- Take a "hard look" at environmental impact of OHVs pursuant to NEPA
- Sufficiently consider the impacts of OHV's in the context of climate change
- Comply with FLPMA with respect to air quality standards
- Properly analyze ACEC's
- Comply with WSRA
- Apply "minimization criteria" with respect to OHV's
- Make a good faith effort to identify cultural resources

- Defendant Intervenors:
  - BlueRibbon Coalition
  - Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition
  - Trails Preservation Alliance
  - State of Utah
  - Carbon, Duchesne, Daggett, Emery, Grand, Kane,
     San Juan, and Uintah Counties
  - SITLA
  - Badlands Energy
  - Crescent Point Energy US Corp.
  - EOG Resources
  - XTO Energy

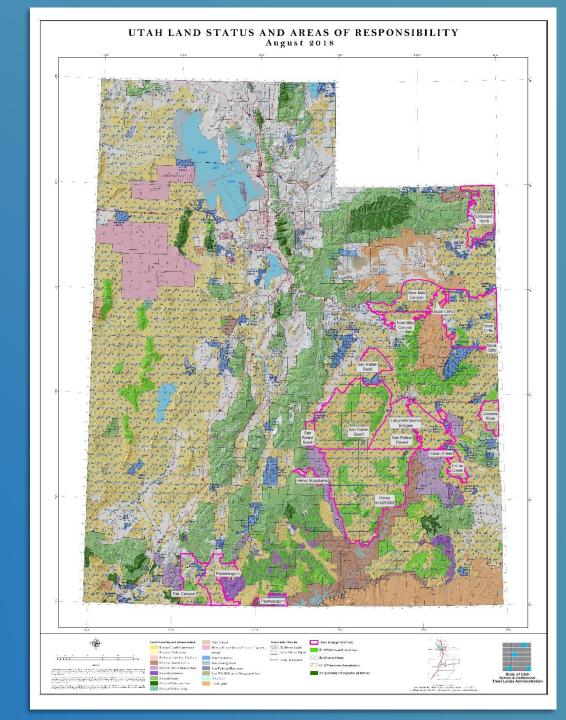
- Court began with adjudicating claims challenging the Richfield RMP and TMP
- November 4, 2013 U.S. District Court Ruling Judge Kimball:
  - BLM did not discuss the "minimization criteria" in the ROD,
     RMP, or other planning documents
  - BLM violated the NHPA
    - Did not make a good faith effort to identify cultural resources
    - Required BLM to complete intensive "Class III" surveys along all 4,277 miles of designated routes

- May 22, 2015 U.S. District Court Order
  - BLM to resolve issues in a phased manner over three years
- January 13, 2017 Settlement Agreement Reached
  - Parties:
    - BLM
    - SUWA et. al.
    - BlueRibbon Coalition
    - Colorado Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition
    - Trails Preservation Alliance

- "Do not oppose or object":
  - SITLA
  - Badlands Energy
  - Crescent Point Energy US Corp.
  - EOG Resources
  - XTO Energy
- Not Parties to Settlement:
  - State of Utah
  - Carbon, Duchesne, Daggett, Emery, Grand, Kane,
     San Juan and Uintah Counties

#### **Settlement Agreement**

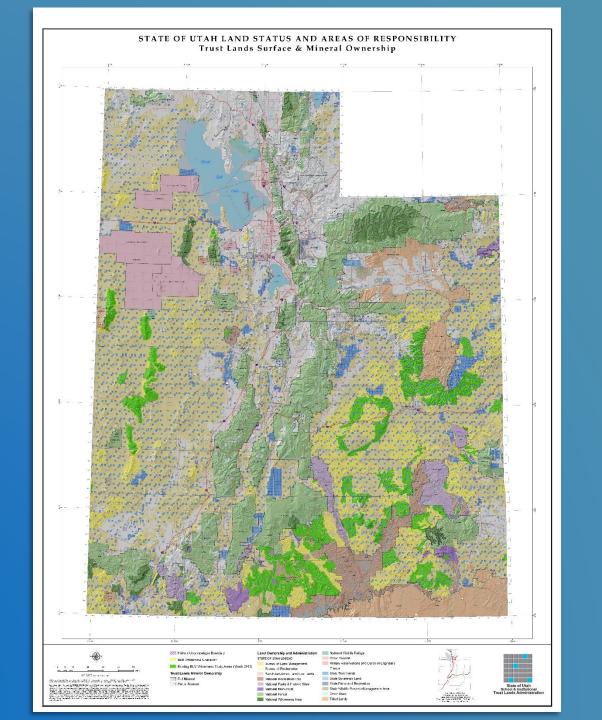
- BLM to issue new TMPs for several travel management areas (~1/2 of previous)
- Specific deadlines
- Remainder of 2008 RMPs stay in place



- Set Evaluation Criteria for Each Route
  - Minimization of impacts (43 CFR 8342.1)
  - Consistent with goals/objectives of RMP
  - Defined purpose and need
    - "access to private or Utah State Institutional Trust Lands" identified as a valid purpose and need for a route
  - Resource/user conflicts

Documentation Requirements for Each Route Alternative

- Purpose and need
  - "A route without an identified purpose and need will not be proposed as part of the dedicated route network"
- Affected Resources
  - Cultural Resources
  - Land with BLM-inventoried wilderness characteristics
    - "regardless of whether BLM administers or manages the subject public lands to maintain or enhance those resources"



Documentation Requirements (cont.)

- Resource Impact
  - <u>Direct</u> and <u>indirect</u> impacts to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources
  - Cultural resources
  - BLM-inventoried wilderness characteristics
- Route-specific Minimization Alternatives
  - How will each alternative route designation "minimize damage" to resources

- Travel Network Minimization Alternatives
  - "BLM will consider the potential damage to any constituent element of wilderness characteristics, including naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, for each alternative route network"
  - BLM will consider "at least one proposed alternative route network that would not designate for ORV use any route where BLM has determined that such use may damage BLM-inventoried wilderness characteristics"

# Settlement Agreement

- Travel Network Minimization Alternatives
  - "BLM need not consider closing such a route to ORV use to the extent the use is authorized by an existing right-of-way or other BLM authorization by law, including State of Utah v. Andrus" ("Cotter Decision")
- Route Networks within WSAs and Natural Areas
  - Analyze at least one alternative that enhances BLMinventoried wilderness characteristics by closing the routes to ORV use
    - "unless ORV use of the route is authorized by an existing right-of-way or other BLM authorization or by law"

- Alternatives Proposed by Parties
  - Any party to the Settlement Agreement may propose a route network alternative
  - BLM will consider any such alternative in the NEPA document
- R.S. 2477 Assertions
  - "Route designations do not signify a recognition or rejection of R.S. 2477 assertions"

#### Monitoring During and After Planning

- Baseline Monitoring Report
  - Document unauthorized disturbances and damage to resources caused by motorized vehicles within
    - WSAs
    - Natural Areas
    - Lands with BLM-inventoried wilderness characteristics
  - Site photography and written narrative
- Monitoring During Planning
  - Inspect all sites at least once per year
  - Record any new disturbances observed
- Parties to settlement may provide BLM with evidence of adverse effects
  - BLM must provide written response

- Monitoring after TMPs are Issued
  - BLM will develop a long-term monitoring protocol as part of each new TMP
- Cultural Resources
  - Class I inventory compilation and analysis of existing data
    - Required for all routes
  - Class III inventory intensive, on-the-ground inventory
    - Required in "high potential" areas
      - Based on predictive modelling informed by Class I inventory
  - Must complete Class III inventory in Richfield Field Office per previous court order (4,277 miles)

# Planning Areas and Deadlines

TMP Area	BLM Field Office	BLM Acreage	SITLA Surface Acreage	SITLA Mineral Acreage	Completion Date	CA Route Inventory Review	Public Scoping	CA Review of Preliminary Route Evaluations	CA Review of Admin. Draft TMP	Public Comment on Draft TMP	Final TMP, EA, Decision Record
Henry Mountains/Fremont Gorge	Richfield	1,451,412	169,851	179,352	11/30/2019	*	*	anna (see Hiji) ma (see Hiji) ma (see			
San Rafael Desert	Price	377,608	45,724	52,061	11/30/2019	*	*				
Dinosaur North	Vernal	220,296	21,870	41,292	11/30/2020	X	Х				
Canyon Rims (Indian Creek)	Moab	90,954	10,436	12,049	5/31/2021			Aug/Sept 2018			
Trail Canyon	Kanab	182,724	30,510	53,115	5/31/2021		44				
San Rafael Swell	Price/Richfield	1,154,410	144,446	146,820	11/30/2021						
Book Cliffs	Vernal/Moab	602,748	134,522	143,488	11/30/2022						
Labyrinth/Gemini Bridges	Moab	303,994	32,398	33,580	5/31/2023						
Paunsaugunt	Kanab	164,603	66,100	85,177	5/31/2023		4-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1				
Nine Mile Canyon	Price/Vernal	164,603	66,099	85,177	5/31/2024						
Dolores River	Moab	126,829	7,740	7,740	5/31/2025						_
· ·	TOTAL	4,840,181	729,696	839,851							

<sup>\*</sup> Completed prior to settlement agreement

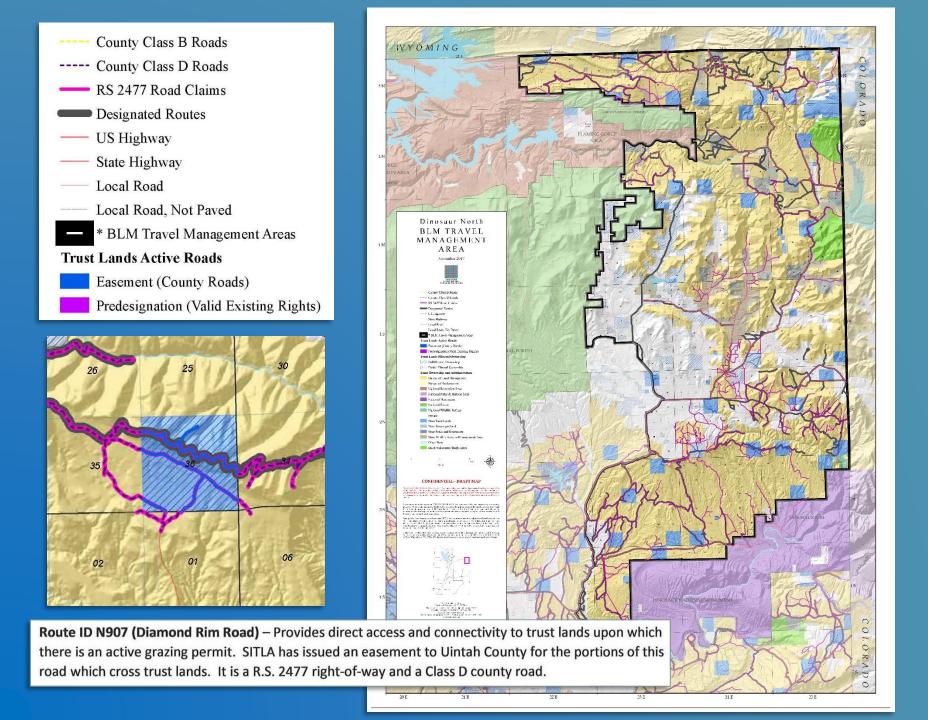
- 13 Planning Areas
- 5 BLM Field Offices
- Each one involves trust lands

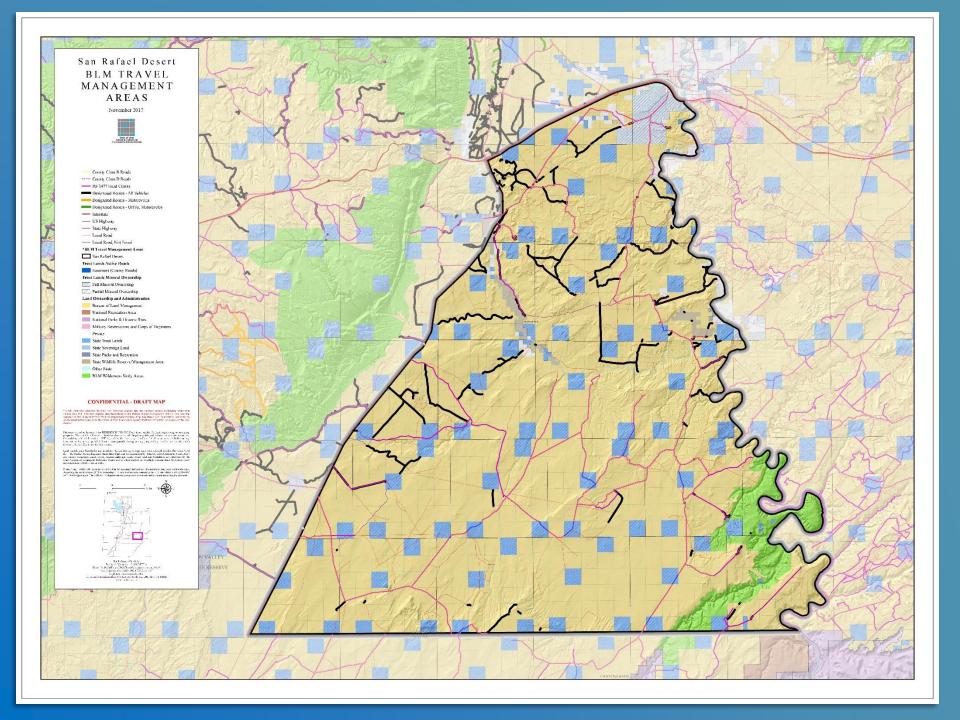
#### **SITLA Strategy**

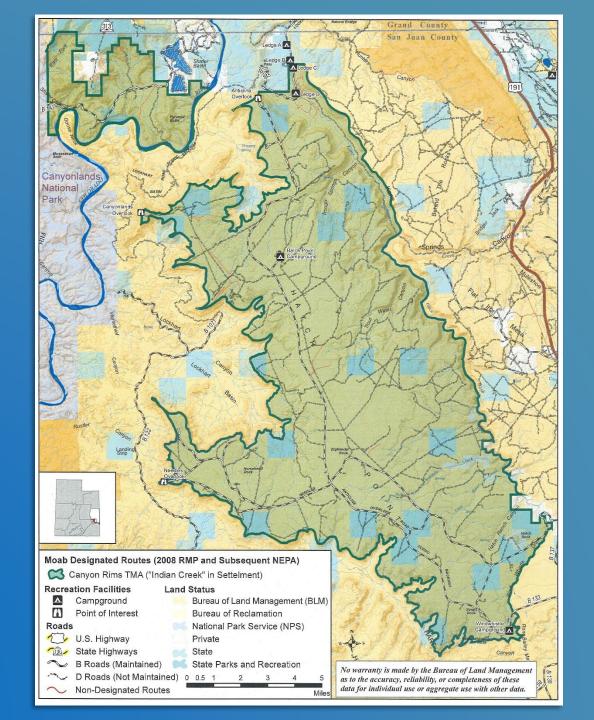
- Travel Planning Team
  - Chris Fausett Team Lead
  - Gage Coates GIS Support
  - Adam Robison Field Verification
- Advance Meetings with BLM Staff (State office & Field offices)
- Execute Cooperating Agency MOUs
  - Additional comment opportunities
  - Early access to draft travel plans
  - Access to data
  - Seat at the table in route evaluation meetings
- Identify routes missed in BLM route inventories
  - Aerial photography
  - Field verification

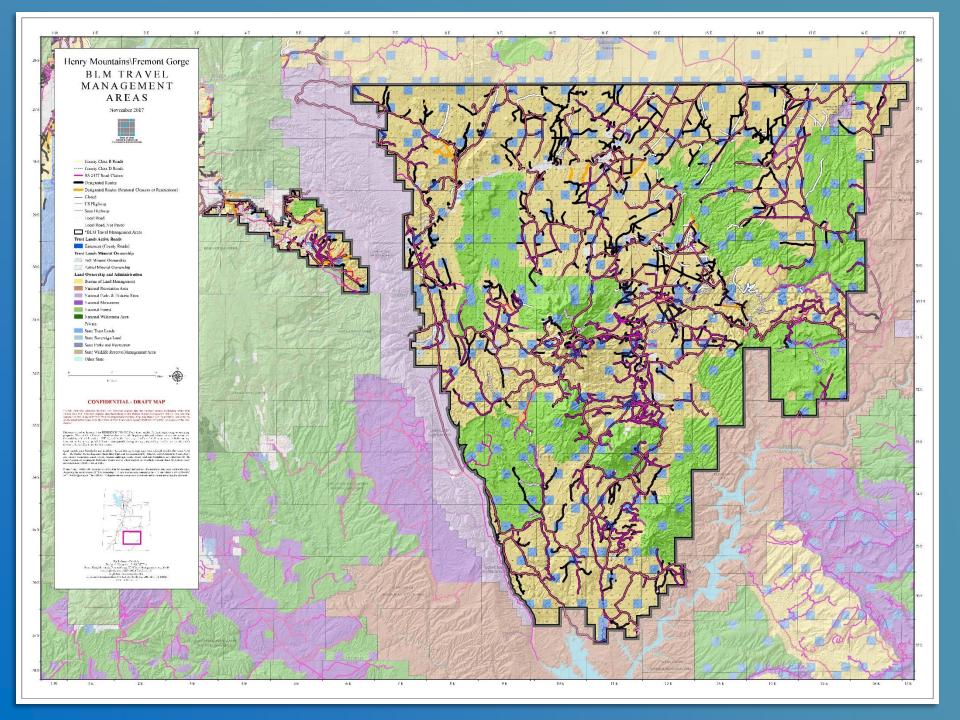
#### **SITLA Strategy**

- Participate in BLM meetings/workshops
- Submit detailed, route-specific comments at each commenting opportunity
  - CA Route Inventory Review
  - Public Scoping
  - CA Review of Preliminary Route Evaluations
  - CA Review of Administrative Draft of TMP
  - Public Comment on Draft TMP
  - Final TMP
- Coordinate with PLPCO and various counties
  - County road claim data
  - R.S. 2477 data
  - SITLA-issued county road easements & disclaimers of interest
- Protect the interests of the beneficiaries (surface & mineral)









#### **Current Status**

- Initial Planning Areas:
  - Henry Mountains & Fremont Gorge (Richfield FO)
  - Dinosaur North (Vernal FO)
  - San Rafael Desert (Price FO)
  - Indian Creek/Canyon Rims (Moab FO)
- Met with Richfield, Price, Vernal, and Moab Field Office Staff
- Executed Cooperating Agency MOU with Moab & Vernal Field Offices
  - Price Field Office MOU under review
- Public scoping comments submitted for Dinosaur North TMP
  - Route-specific comments on 236 route segments
  - Identified five additional routes
- Indian Creek/Canyon Rims
  - Route evaluation meetings in August/September

# Challenges

- Concurrent BLM plans statewide
- Limited SITLA resources
- Each field office operates somewhat independently
- Compressed time frames
  - Short windows for comments (30-days)